



CAPCOA

MEMORANDUM

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

DATE: February 12, 2007

FROM: Mel Zeldin

TO: Air Pollution Control Officers

SUBJECT: Survey on Emergency Response

CAPCOA is participating in an emergency response, multi-agency coordination group, called the California Air Response Planning Alliance (CARPA). In order to better coordinate the state and local efforts in dealing with air emissions from accidental releases of harmful compounds, information on the current state of readiness is needed.

I am asking for your cooperation in completing the attached survey. There is also an informational cover sheet prepared by CARPA.

Please provide your responses back to me by **March 1, 2007**. A self-addressed envelope is provided.

Thanks for your assistance.

RECEIVED

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PLACER COUNTY AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL DISTRICT

California Air Response Planning Alliance

Government agencies' response to air emissions from accidental releases of harmful compounds is conducted at many levels. It involves multiple jurisdictions, and uses a range of tools and practices. The threat of high concentration or toxic air releases to residents can range from mild to life threatening, and can reach from the immediately affected area well into nearby communities. A timely and credible response is critical.

The first response groups on a scene are usually fire agencies, law enforcement, or hazmat teams. They typically have very focused objectives. Depending on the seriousness or extent of the incident, events may overwhelm or simply exceed local responders' capability. This can occur, for example, when air emissions have a significant downwind effect, involve complex chemical mixtures, require applications that may be unavailable to local agencies, or that require specialized outside expertise. Using a nationwide system, agencies with specialized assets can be brought in to assist. Understanding, marshalling and coordinating these response elements can be a challenge for groups that seldom, if ever, interact in this way, but may be thrust together during a response.

Over the last several months, state, local, and federal agencies have identified the need to ensure California has a well-coordinated response program within the air community. Representatives of the California Air Resources Board, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association, and US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 recently formed a steering committee of technical and response leaders, and government health professionals to improve preparedness in this area. It contains agency representatives that either have a direct role, or represent local agencies that could be requested to assist in responding emergency air releases.

The steering committee has met three times in recent months primarily to learn about others' roles and capabilities, and will soon begin to chart a course and tackle important technical and procedural topics in emergency response. The group's primary focus is providing information in communities near an incident.

The group, known as the California Air Response Planning Alliance (CaARPA), will, within the next year, form several technical subcommittees made up of agency experts to discuss approaches to responding in areas such as modeling, meteorology, emissions, monitoring, laboratory, health assessment, data management, and communications. The subcommittees will address means to improve air quality assessments and provide public health officials with

actionable information. The definition of 'actionable' by the steering committee will guide the project. The mission statement adopted by the group is:

To provide actionable incident response information to protect public health and the environment from the impacts of accidental or deliberate releases of hazardous compounds into the air.

The general areas the subcommittee will address include improving cooperation and coordination among groups, and enhancing, cataloging, and disseminating information on credible response methods and practices.

One of the first activities to be undertaken by the steering committee will be to survey the steering committee members themselves, and local air districts to develop a baseline understanding of their existing response and assessment capabilities. The responses will help guide the next steps, and provide the subcommittees with current information and a common understanding for their work.

Please take a look at the accompanying survey and provide it to the appropriate person within your district or agency to complete and return. Feel free to provide clarifying comments or notes which may further delineate your responses. Questions may be referred to Jeff Cook (Emergency Response Coordinator, ARB, 916.455.7411, jcook@arb.ca.gov) or Tom Christofk, CAPCOA representative and APCO of Placer County APCD 530-745-2321 tchristo@placer.ca.gov

Air Agency Emergency Response Resource Survey
(Developed in concert with CAPCOA)

1. Does your District have an Emergency Response/Incident Response system in place? Yes ☐ No ☐
- a. If yes, is it formalized? Yes ☐ No ☐
- b. Do you have an emergency response plan? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Is your District involved in providing resources as a part of another entity's emergency response plan? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please list what agency and what resources you provide.
- _____
- _____
- _____
3. Are other agencies involved in providing resources to your District as part of your emergency Response plan? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please list the agency and the resources provided.
- _____
- _____
- _____
4. Does your Staff respond in an advisory or support capacity to emergency response agencies utilizing District resources? (i.e. air sample collection, air monitoring, lab analysis and/or inspection). Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, briefly describe.
- _____
- _____
- _____
5. Have staff from your District received training in the Standardized Emergency Management Response System (SEMS), National Incident Management (NIMS), and/or Incident Command System (ICS)? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, describe what staff roles and what training.
- _____
- _____
- _____
6. Do you maintain an after hours (24/7) notification system with local emergency responders? Do you currently have the capability to provide air monitoring or other assistance during an air related emergency? In not, do you have some other limited standby or response system in place? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, briefly describe.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. Does your staff have the capability and training to use personal protective equipment during an emergency? Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, briefly describe.

8. Have staff from your District attended either the 40 hour First Responder HazMat training or other hazardous materials related courses? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If yes, do you have employees who take the 8 hour annual refresher?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please describe any other training courses and include what staff roles attended.

9. Who at your District is the Point of Contact for coordinating and obtaining further information about your District's response capabilities and responsibilities? *Please list their name and position and contact information.*

10. Do you have air modeling resources capable of conducting emergency response plume models? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please list the type of models and whether they address onsite near source or remote downwind plume modeling.

11. Do you have laboratory resources for analyzing either filter based or gas samples?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, could you describe whether this is your lab or a contract lab, mutual aid lab, etc. as well as the broad capability of the lab: bio threat, chemical threat, etc.

12. Does your District have onsite bio/chemical identification capability?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please describe where and with whom this identification takes place: Air District? Hazmat? CHP? County Environmental Health?

13. What portable (self contained) air monitoring or meteorological equipment does your District possess?

14. Can you think of ways in which you might benefit from, or provide support to nearby districts in some sort of 'mutual aid' agreement? If so, please describe the need and what services would be useful. Also, if yes, please include ideas on methods that could be used to accomplish this.

15. Would you like to learn more about ways to support a response to an air related incident? Yes ☐ No ☐

16. Add additional comments on capabilities and/or ideas that may be of benefit to enhance the mission of CaARPA as described in the letter that you received with this survey:

Air District: _____

Name of Person Completing this Survey: _____

Phone: _____ e:mail: _____